

CASE STUDIES – 235B DHS

Case Study #1

Physical Abuse 235B (DHS)

A 67 year-old woman with AIDS suffered bruises to her face, shoulder, arm, hand and hip. Doctors noted that the bruises were not the sort of discoloration which can accompany AIDS. Doctors disputed the explanation that the patient had fallen from her bed. They theorized that the woman was turned too vigorously in the bed and slammed against the bed's side rails. It was suspected that the bruises on her face probably resulted from being forced to take medication.

Case Study #

Physical Abuse 235B (DHS)

77-year-old woman living in her own home was assaulted by her 53-year-old son. She had 2 black eyes, a quarter sized lump on her forehead and numerous bruises on her extremities. He had always lived with his Mom and became her caregiver after a car accident left her with physical ailments. The son said he had just helped his Mom to the bathroom and she fell. The injuries were not consistent with the description he gave. The Mother refused to admit the son had hurt her. The Mother had called 911 but later said she couldn't remember making the call.

Case Study #3

Physical Abuse 235B (DHS)

A health aide had cared for an older woman in her home for a number of years and the woman was very satisfied with the care. The woman could only ambulate with a wheelchair. One day the aide was running late. While transferring the woman from her bed to the wheelchair, the aide grabbed the woman's arm roughly. The woman screamed and told the aide it hurt. The aide ignored her and continued to pull the woman over into the wheelchair. The aide continued her duties and the woman complained that her arm hurt. The aide ignored her complaints. Later that night a different aide came in to help her get to bed. When helping her get her nightclothes on, the woman winced and noticed a huge red mark on the woman's arm.

Case Study #

Physical Abuse 235B (DHS)

A woman in her 70's who had a stroke lived in her own home with her son. Her son helped her with getting up, grooming, meal preparation, etc. Her son was very aggressive and he drank a lot. One night the neighbors could hear screaming and called the police. The police found the woman had injuries consistent with being hit, punched and possibly kicked.

Case Study #5

Physical Abuse 235B (DHS)

A daughter was living with and caring for her Mother who was in a wheelchair and dependent on her daughter for care. One night they had an argument and the daughter threw a phonebook at her Mother. The phonebook hit the Mother directly in the forehead leaving a very large red mark

Case Study #1

Sexual Abuse 235B (DHS)

A 65 year-old woman had an unruly son who came to live with her. He confiscated her benefit checks and threw away her medications for arthritis and pain. He demanded sexual gratification from her on repeated occasions and kept her submissive by threatening to throw her out in the street if she made his practices known.

Case Study #2

Sexual Abuse 235B (DHS)

A dependent adult had a relative who voluntarily assumed the responsibility for her care. These duties included cooking, cleaning, dressing and bathing her. Periodically he would sexually abuse her.

Case Study

Sexual Exploitation 235B (DHS)

A dependent adult living at home received services from a home health agency. The staff member became romantically involved with the dependent adult and had a sexual relationship with her while he was her caretaker. The encounters took place before, during and after work hours.

Case Study #1

Financial Exploitation 235B (DHS)

A 79 year-old woman recovering from multiple strokes lived alone in her home. Her son, who lived out-of-state, called his mother's best friend who had power-of-attorney, demanding money. After being refused, the son and his girlfriend moved into the mother's house and forced her to revoke her friend's power-of-attorney. The son then forced her to create a new Power of Attorney and name him as the attorney-in-fact. They disposed of the mother's cat and isolated her from friends. After readmission to acute care, the victim told staff she was afraid to go home and wanted to go to a nursing home. When contacted, the son refused to let her go, stating that he would take her home for a few months, spend her money down to Title XIX Medicaid levels, and then admit her to a nursing home. The victim's doctor felt it was a case of financial exploitation and, with the help of her attorney, was able to revoke her son's power-of-attorney.

Case Study #
Financial Exploitation 235B (DHS)

A 57-year-old woman living with a 62-year-old man for over 20 years split up when the man discovered she had been stealing from him by writing checks totaling \$1035. The man was dependent and the woman had written the checks to herself without his knowledge or permission.

Case Study #3

Financial Exploitation 235B (DHS)

A legally blind woman with diabetes and in need of assistance was financially exploited by one of her caretakers who came to her home to provide care. The caregiver picked up prescriptions for the woman and used her checkbook to pay for them. She helped herself to \$4,100 by stealing 11 checks and writing them to cash for herself.

Case Study #4

Financial Exploitation 235B (DHS)

A 39-year-old caregiver of a 78-year-old man came to his home to provide health care services. The caregiver found the man dead and took his credit card. She used his credit card to pay her own credit card accounts that were past due and also used the card in an ATM machine. Initially she stated, “He was dead – it wasn’t like it hurt him.”

Case Study #1

Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

A home health aide was startled to find her client, an elderly woman in soiled clothing and suffering from severe weight loss. The woman's husband, also her caretaker, had failed to contact her physician when she had difficulty breathing. He tried applying Vicks ointment to her chest, but in fact, she had serious respiratory problems. He said sometimes he might seem to be ignoring her, but that was only to encourage her to do things by herself.

Case Study #2

Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

A competent 87-year-old man on oxygen and with a feeding tube, lacks the mobility to get out of bed. His son lives with him and is his primary caregiver. The son restricted contact with relatives, friends, or others in the home other than caregivers from an agency. The son had very strict rules – the father could not have a bowel movement during the night – he was told to hold it and if he didn't the father had to lie in it. The father was very intimidated by the son. He said he wanted to remain in the home but he didn't want to make the son mad. The son left on a cruise and lied to the agency providing care. He told them he had made arrangements with other family members to care for his Father while he was gone. The care agency came in for 2 hours daily – but the father was left alone the rest of the time.

Case Study #3

Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

A female Alzheimer's patient attended adult day services program on a regular basis. The couple had resources to pay for services the wife needed, but the husband refused to services to save money. In addition, the wife needed nursing level of care but the husband would not admit her to a facility due to the cost. Meanwhile, the husband quit paying for the adult day care services and the wife eventually ended up at home with her husband providing inadequate care.

Case Study #3

Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

An 80-year-old widow lived in her own home. In the past, she was very tidy and clean. She has an adult son in his 60's who lives with her. The widow was taken to the hospital because the son's dog bit her. When admitted to the hospital, she had dog feces all over her body. Friends went to the house and found six dogs. The house was cluttered and had a rancid smell. The "City" took the dogs. The son went to the city pound and took back three of the dogs. In addition, the utilities and phone service were cut off. The son used the only family income, the widow's Social Security, to pay for dog food. The son is verbally abusive to any person who enters the home including his mother. The widow admitted that her son had threatened her but she was afraid to be there without her son.

Case Study #1

Self Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

An elderly man had surgery for a broken hip. Prior to his surgery, the man was able to take care of himself. However, afterwards he could barely walk around his cluttered and filthy mobile home. He had also lost weight and a good deal of his strength because he was unable to prepare food for himself.

This illustrates how easy it can be for an older adult to suddenly slide into self-neglect.

Case Study #2

Self Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

An elderly couple lived in a condominium. The couple was involved in an automobile accident and ended up in the hospital. The hospital staff determined the husband was alert, but with some cognitive impairment, and the wife was demented. The hospital arranged for support services to come into the couple's home to give assistance and the couple agreed to the services. The nursing agency assessed the couple and determined the husband was not alert or oriented. He could or would not tell the nurse who his physician was. The nurse determined the house was not a safe setting. The husband then determined services were not necessary and refused to pay.

Case Study #3

Self Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

A woman in her 80's had always taken care of herself and her home. Through the years her health had deteriorated and she was not able to keep up with either herself or her home. Neighbors and friends had offered to help or arrange for assistance but the woman refused. A neighbor reported that she had been unable to get her to answer the door and she was very concerned because she hadn't seen her for several days. Newspapers had piled up outside her door and there was mail in the mailbox. The neighbor had a key and went in to find the woman on the floor. She had fallen and couldn't get up. The home smelled badly of urine and feces. The home was very cluttered and uncared for. So many dishes were piled in the sink you couldn't turn on the faucets.

Case Study #4

Self Denial of Critical Care 235B (DHS)

A fifty-year-old man had severe diabetes, kidney failure and severe heart problems. He had several heart attacks and a stroke. He was confined to a wheelchair, but lived in his own apartment. An aide came in twice per day to get him up in the morning and in bed at night. He received kidney dialysis 3 times per week. The nutritionist at the hospital explained in great detail what foods the man could and could not have and in what portions. She had provided him with numerous pamphlets and information concerning the strict diet the man must maintain to prevent kidney failure. The man refused to follow the strict diet regime and did have kidney failure. He was rescued in time to save him.